

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A manipulative toy configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal, wherein said planar surfaces disposed on the sides of said body, said planar surface at the front of said body and said planar surface at the back of said body are all practically identical in size and shape;

a circular depression centered in said body planar surface, said depression having a circular sidewall and a flat floor wherein said floor is parallel to said body planar surface;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendages corresponding to said planar surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

a circular protrusion centered in said appendage planar surface, said protrusion having a circular sidewall and a flat roof wherein said roof is parallel to said appendage planar surface;

means disposed on both said body and said appendages for removably attaching said appendages to said body at said respective planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendages attached to said body, wherein said head, tail, legs or wings may be interchangeably attached to all of said planar surfaces; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said appendages relative to said body.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said appendages to said body comprises a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendages.

3. (ORIGINAL) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 2, wherein said complementary magnetic elements are Nd-Fe-B magnets.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The interactive manipulative toy of claim 3, wherein said means for limiting movement comprises a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said appendages are attached to said body.

5. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 4, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein said ribs are approximately .75 millimeters wide and 0.75 millimeters deep, and are 24 in number.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 5, wherein the diameter of said circular configuration of said ribs is approximately 9.75 millimeters.

8. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 7, wherein said planar surfaces are roughly circular in area.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 8, wherein the diameter of said planar surfaces on said body are approximately 21 millimeters, and the diameter of said planar surface on said appendages are approximately 19 millimeters.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 9, wherein said ribs disposed on said appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said appendages, and wherein said ribs disposed on said body are beveled and recessed below said planar surfaces on said body such that said beveled ribs are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ribs to frictionally engage each other when said appendages are attached to said body.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said ridge is configured so as to resemble a shoulder of said animal such that attachment of said appendages are lifelike in appearance.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (ORIGINAL) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein at least one appendage and said body are composed of a rigid plastic material.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said body and said appendages are molded to simulate an animal.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A manipulative toy comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below an outer surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal, wherein said planar surfaces disposed on the sides of said body, said planar surface at the

front of said body and said planar surface at the back of said body are all practically identical in size and shape;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one roughly circular planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendages corresponding to said planar surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

a circular depression centered in said body planar surface, said depression having a circular sidewall and a flat floor wherein said floor is parallel to said body planar surface;

a circular protrusion centered in said appendage planar surface, said protrusion having a circular sidewall and a flat roof wherein said roof is parallel to said appendage planar surface;

means disposed on both said body and said appendages for removably attaching said appendages to said body at said respective planar surfaces, said means comprising a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendages, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendages attached to said body, wherein said head, tail, legs or wings may be interchangeably attached to all of said planar surfaces; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said appendages relative to said body, said means comprising a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said appendages are attached to said body, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said ribs disposed on said appendages are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said appendages, and wherein said ribs disposed on said body are beveled and recessed below said planar surfaces of said body such that said beveled ribs are complementary to each other to thereby allow said ribs to frictionally engage each other when said appendages are attached to said body.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said body includes an outer surface and wherein said planar surfaces on said body are recessed below the outer surface of said body, said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a ridge.

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for inspiring imagination and creativity using manipulative toys formed in the shape of various animals, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least two manipulative toys configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings, each comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having a plurality of planar surfaces disposed on the sides thereof, said planar surfaces being recessed below an outer surface of said body and bounded on an

upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal, wherein said planar surfaces disposed on the sides of said body, said planar surface at the front of said body and said planar surface at the back of said body are all practically identical in size and shape;

a plurality of appendages each having at least one planar surface disposed at an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendages corresponding to said planar surfaces on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

a circular depression centered in said body planar surface, said depression having a circular sidewall and a flat floor wherein said floor is parallel to said body planar surface;

a circular protrusion centered in said appendage planar surface, said protrusion having a circular sidewall and a flat roof wherein said roof is parallel to said appendage planar surface;

means disposed on both said body and said appendages for removably attaching said appendages to said body at said planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendages attached to said body, wherein said head, tail, legs or wings may be interchangeably attached to all of said planar surfaces; and

means for limiting rotational and linear movement of said appendages relative to
said body; and
interchanging said appendages from said toys so as to create one or more fanciful
creatures.

END CLAIMS